

REMARKS

Reconsideration of this Application is respectfully requested.

Upon entry of the foregoing amendment, claims 1, 5, 8, and 9 are pending in the application with claims 1, 5, and 8 being the independent claims. Claims 2-4 and 6-7 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Based on the above Amendment and the following Remarks, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn.

The Office Action, on pages 7-8, indicates that claims 8 and 9 are allowed. Applicants would like to thank the Examiner for such allowance. Applicants note that claim 9 has been editorially amended to conform with U.S. patent practice.

The Office Action, on page 2, indicates that the prior art document submitted by the Applicants in the Information Disclosure Statement (IDS) filed on January 13, 2004 has not been considered because a copy of the document (WO 00/25160A1) was not provided. Applicants do not believe that a copy was necessary because of the exchange program between the USPTO and the JPO. However, for the Examiner's benefit, Applicants submit concurrently herewith a PTO SB 08A and a copy of the document. The Examiner is respectfully requested to initial the PTO SB 08A and return to the undersigned.

The Office Action, on pages 2-3, rejects claim 3 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicants regard as their invention. Specifically, the Office Action asserts that the

limitation "said area for deep grooves is deeper than said switching grooves" is unclear because claim 2, from which claim 3 depends, recites "an area of deep grooves which is approximately as deep as said switching grooves" and it is not clear how the area of deep grooves can have the same depth as that of the switching grooves and be deeper than the switching grooves. Claims 2 and 3 have been cancelled, thus rendering this rejection moot with respect to claim 3.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that this rejection be withdrawn.

Further, Applicants presume, given the lack of a prior art rejection with respect to claim 3, that claim 3, as filed, contained allowable subject matter. Furthermore, Applicants respectfully submit that neither Edwards nor Lelic, the cited prior art applied to other claims, teaches or suggests an area of deep grooves which is deeper than the switching grooves, as was previously recited in claim 3 and is now recited in amended claim 1.

The Office Action, on pages 3-5, rejects claims 1, 2, and 4 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by International Application Publication No. WO 01/65292A1 to Edwards. Claims 2 and 4 have been cancelled, thus rendering this rejection moot with respect to claims 2 and 4. Claim 1 has been amended to include the allowable subject matter of claim 3, thus also rendering this rejection moot with respect to claim 1. Applicants therefore respectfully request that this rejection be withdrawn.

The Office Action, on pages 5-6, rejects claims 5 and 7 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over International Application Publication No. WO 01/65292A1 to Edwards in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,493,480 to Lelic. Claim 7 has been cancelled, thus rendering this

rejection moot with respect to claim 7. Claim 5 has been amended to include the allowable subject matter of claim 6, as discussed below, thus rendering this rejection moot with respect to claim 5. Applicants therefore respectfully request that this rejection be withdrawn.

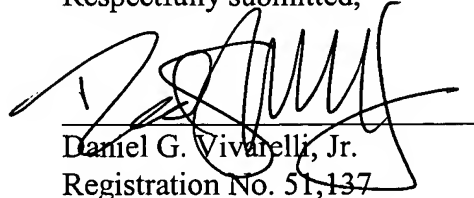
In the Office Action on page 6, the Examiner states that claim 6 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim and would be allowed if rewritten in independent form including all of the of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicants thank the Examiner for the indication of allowable subject matter. Claim 5 has been amended to recite the subject matter of independent claim 1 and allowable claim 6. Thus, Applicants respectfully request that amended claim 5 be allowed.

It is therefore submitted that this application is in condition for allowance, and such allowance is respectfully requested.

Should the Examiner have any questions regarding this matter, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the number listed below.

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Respectfully submitted,



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